

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

## PROMOTING THE STUDY OF SCIENCE

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 13, 1996

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation aimed at promoting the study of science among our Nation's youth. My legislation would reauthorize the National Science Scholarship Program which was originally supported by a bipartisan majority of both Houses and signed by President Bush in 1990. It would reward outstanding students who have made a commitment to pursue a degree in the sciences. By awarding these students an academic scholarship, this legislation will help families offset the escalating costs of higher education while facilitating student interest in a field which has become increasingly important to our technologically based society. In addition, the legislation would require at least one-half of the scholarships be awarded to female students, promoting the participation of women in an area which has traditionally been dominated by men.

Never before has the need to have a work force well versed in the sciences been so critical to our Nation's success. Just 100 years ago, 10 of the 12 largest companies in America were natural resource companies. They were businesses whose success depended on raw materials such as cotton, tobacco, and steel. Today, our economy is drastically different. As we enter the 21st century, the 10 largest and most rapidly growing industries in the world are brainpower industries: microelectronics, biotech, material-science, telecommunications. They are industries which have succeeded because of the ingenuity and intelligence of their employees. If America hopes to keep these brainpower industries based in the United States, we need to provide employers with a work force which is technologically literate. My legislation addresses this need by encouraging students to pursue science-based careers.

The National Science Scholarship Program was initiated in 1990 under the Excellence in Mathematics, Science and Engineering Education Act to provide financial assistance for two extraordinary science students from each congressional district. President Bush originated the legislation and it was approved with wide bipartisan support. As he signed the National Science Scholarship Program into law, President Bush said of the program:

This new program will provide an important vehicle for demonstrating the Nation's commitment to excellence in science, mathematics, and engineering achievement and to the recognition of excellent young people who are pursuing higher education and careers in those fields.

Although the program was relatively small in size, costing only \$4.4 million annually, its impact was large as thousands of students across the country received up to \$5,000 per year to help defray the costs of college.

One of the key elements of the National Science Scholarship Program's success is the provision that at least half of the scholarship recipients be women. Although the conditions for female scientists have greatly improved since the turn of the century when Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell, America's first female graduate of medical school was forced to go to England to practice her profession, the number of women entering this historically male dominated field is still relatively small. Today women receive 54 percent of all bachelor's degrees, yet they earn little more than 40 percent of all B.A.'s in science fields and less than 15 percent of engineering degrees. Over the last 10 years, the percentage of bachelors degrees awarded to women in the field of computer science actually decreased from 35 to 30 percent. The National Science Scholarship Program actively works to eliminate this disparity by encouraging young women to pursue careers in sciences at the very age when a disproportionate number of well-qualified girls and women give up on potential careers in science and engineering.

Despite the success of this program, it was merged into a larger, less focused program at the end of the last Congress. In the process, its authorization was repealed, appropriations cut, and science priority eliminated. The 50-50 split between men and women scholars and the district-by-district distribution of scholarships were also dropped. In short, the program disappeared. As a result, almost 2,000 intelligent, highly motivated students have been denied access to much-needed scholarship money.

In a post-GATT, post-NAFTA world, we cannot afford to create barriers to young scientists realizing their full potential. This is why I am introducing legislation which would reauthorize the National Science Scholarship Program. As we enter the information age, let us do so as a community which is prepared to meet the challenges of the next millennium. Let us support our young scientists by encouraging them to pursue careers in science fields. Let us reauthorize the National Science Scholarship Program.

## TRIBUTE TO THE U.S. ARMY ON ITS 221ST BIRTHDAY

HON. CHET EDWARDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 13, 1996

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, on June 14, 1775, the Second Continental Congress, representing the citizens of the 13 American colonies, authorized the establishment of a Continental Army with the expressed purpose of providing for the defense of a fledgling democracy and its bedrock principles and values. The next day, Congressman George Washington became Gen. George Washington and prepared to take command of the new Army. The collective expression of the pursuit of per-

sonal freedoms that caused the authorization and organization of the U.S. Army, subsequently led to our Nation's Declaration of Independence and the codification of our bedrock principles and values in the Constitution of the United States. The birth and growth of that Army led to the birth of our great Nation. Today we celebrate the birthday of the U.S. Army, in recognition of 221 years of continuous, selfless, and valorous service to the citizens, principles, and values of the United States of America.

For 221 years, our Army's central purpose has been to fight and win our Nation's wars. In years past, those wars have typically been fought and won on distant, foreign battlefields, while at home, the Army has provided for the security of a growing population. The Army's contributions include the development of our Nation's rail and water transportation networks, and innumerable medical and scientific achievements that have markedly improved the quality of life of our citizenry. Whatever the mission, the Nation turns to its Army for decisive victory, regardless of whether those victories are measured in the defeat of foreign armed forces or the timely delivery of humanitarian assistance at home or abroad. The 172 battle streamers carried on the Army flag are testaments to the valor, commitment, and sacrifice of those who have served and fought under its banner. Valley Forge, New Orleans, Mexico City, Gettysburg, Verdun, Bataan, Normandy, Pusan, Ia Drang Valley, Grenada, Panama, and Kuwait are but a handful of the places where American soldiers have won extraordinary distinction and respect for our Nation and our Army.

Soldiers of character are today, as they have been throughout the Army's glorious history, the heart and soul of our Army. "Duty, honor, country" are more than mere words—they are the creed by which the American soldier lives and serves. Today's Army is without equal, not in terms of its size, but in the quality and dedication of the young men and women who have chosen to selflessly serve the Nation, at home and abroad, in peace and war, to accomplish the tasks directed by the Nation's leaders. Our young men and women, who receive tough, realistic training and are equipped with the finest equipment, are the envy of the world's nations. The Army's strength always has been, and always will be, the American soldier. Intelligent, physically fit, highly motivated, and educated, and well trained and supported, soldiers are our Army's capital asset. While no one can predict the cause, location, or magnitude of future battles, there is one certainty—American soldiers of character, selflessly serving the Nation, will continue to be the credentials of our Army.

The Army is prepared to answer the Nation's call, and such calls have been increasing in number and disparity in recent years. These wide-ranging missions highlight the complex global security environment our Nation faces today. The threats are less distinct and less predictable than in the past, but more complex and just as real and dangerous. Rising sophistication among terrorists and rogue

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